

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 164792

62

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01

AID-05 /058 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:OSM

APPROVED BY AF:AMB. DAVIS

AF/C:AMB. VANCE

AF/C-WLCUTLER

S:MR. BREMER

S/S -PSHANKLE

----- 035994

R 121806Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 164792

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

REF: CONAKRY 1047 (NOTAL); BUJUMBURA 475 (NOTAL);
KINSHASA 5983 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF STATUS US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS
PROVIDED ADDRESSEES FOR THEIR BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

2. FOLLOWING EXPULSION OF US AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA AND
ZAIRIAN ALLEGATIONS THAT US INVOLVED IN COUP PLOTTING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 164792

AGAINST PRESIDENT MOBUTU, AMB. VANCE WAS SENT TO KINSHASA

ON SPECIAL MISSION. DURING HIS VISIT JUNE 21-25, VANCE HAD THREE LENGTHY MEETINGS WITH MOBUTU DURING WHICH GENERAL STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, PLOT CHARGES AND OTHER TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WERE DISCUSSED. ALTHOUGH HE RECEIVED VANCE WARMLY, MOBUTU INITIALLY SEEMED REALLY TO BELIEVE OR AT LEAST TO SUSPECT THAT US HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIM. "EVIDENCE" HE PRESENTED WAS IN PART TANGENTIAL, IN PART FALSE, AND IN SUM WITHOUT SUBSTANCE. BUT PROJECTING EXAGGERATED US CONCERN WITH SOME OF HIS RECENT FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY INITIATIVES, AS HE SEEMS TO HAVE DONE, IT COULD WELL HAVE SEEMED CONVINCING TO MOBUTU. IN COURSE OF

TALKS VANCE STRESSED IMPORTANT AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST BETWEEN US AND ZAIRE, OFFERED ASSURANCES OF OUR CONTINUED GOODWILL TOWARD MOBUTU AND OUR DESIRE TO WORK WITH HIM, AND EXPLODED PLOT COMPLICITY "EVIDENCE" PIECE BY PIECE. VANCE CAME AWAY FROM THIRD MEETING CONVINCED THAT MOBUTU NO LONGER BELIEVED US HAD BEEN INVOLVED, THAT SUBSTANTIAL US INTERESTS IN ZAIRE REMAINED INTACT, AND THAT US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS HAD BEEN RESTORED TO WHAT THEY HAD BEEN BEFORE CHARGES WERE MADE.

3. SINCE VANCE MISSION BILATERAL CONTACTS HAVE BEEN REASSURING AND LOCAL PRESS CRITICISM AND INNUENDOS DIRECTED AT US HAVE DIMINISHED BUT NOT DISAPPEARED. WE HOPE THAT MOBUTU WILL ALLOW CHARGES AGAINST US TO FADE AWAY. WE CANNOT EXPECT HIM PUBLICLY TO WITHDRAW THEM, AND WE BELIEVE ANY EFFORT ON OUR PART TO CLAIM OPENLY THAT HE HAS WOULD FORCE HIM INTO DEFENDING HIMSELF AND RETURNING TO THE OFFENSIVE. WHILE IT WOULD BE MORE SATISFACTORY TO BE ABLE TO TELL OTHERS THAT WE HAVE PROVED TO MOBUTU THAT HE WAS MISTAKEN AND THAT HE HAS IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED OUR PROOF, THIS COULD JEOPARDIZE CURRENT EFFORTS TO RESTORE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE AVOIDED IN ANY DISCUSSIONS.

4. JULY JEUNE AFRIQUE ARTICLE ON PLOT CHARGES AND US/ZAIRE RELATIONS (KINSHASA 5983) STATES INTER ALIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 164792

THAT AMONG "SHOCK TROOPS COMPOSED OF SPECIALISTS IN THE OPERATION OF 'DESTABILIZATION'" ACCOMPANYING AMB. HINTON TO ZAIRE WERE "A CHARGE, MR. WALKER, AND TWO COUNSELORS, BOTH NAMED HAMILTON. ALL THREE, AS IF BY COINCIDENCE, HAD SERVED IN CHILE DURING THE ALLENDE PERIOD." INDIVIDUALS REFERRED TO ARE: LANNON WALKER, EARLIER ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND NOW ACTING DCM; GEORGE E. HAMILTON, ECONOMIC OFFICER; AND HUGH G.

HAMILTON, JR., ALSO AN ECONOMIC OFFICER. NONE OF THE THREE HAS EVER SERVED IN CHILE; NONE OF THE THREE HAD EVER MET AMB. HINTON BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO ZAIRE; AND GEORGE HAMILTON IS SERVING HIS FIRST TOUR IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE. WHILE ARTICLE IS FILLED WITH OTHER FALSE AND SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS, NONE IS SO EASILY REFUTABLE, AND SO OPEN TO INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AS FALSE, AS THE ABOVE.

5. IN GENERAL, DEPT HAS ATTEMPTED TO TREAT COUP ALLEGATIONS

AND RELATED PROBLEMS IN US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS IN LOW-KEY,

AND REQUESTS POSTS DO SAME. DEPT BELIEVES THAT THESE PROBLEMS CAN BEST BE WORKED OUT BY QUIET DIPLOMACY AND, AS SUGGESTED PARA 3, THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM SO AS TO LIMIT CHANCES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON PART OF GOZ. WHILE IF NECESSARY IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT US NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN PLOT AGAINST MOBUTU, WE WISH TO PLACE FOCUS OF ANY DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT ON CURRENT EFFORTS TO REPAIR RELATIONS WHICH TRADITIONALLY VERY FRIENDLY AND ON US INTENTIONS TO PURSUE THESE EFFORTS IN FUTURE. INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE164792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RRSTRAND:OSM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750242-0183
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750760/aaaacbjz.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CONAKRY 1047, 75 BUJUMBURA 475
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, US
To: AF POSTS LUANDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006